

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1, 9, 10, 13, 14, and 17-19 are amended and claim 2, 3, 7, 15, 16, and 20 are canceled herein. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method in a computing environment for configuring a product by determining compatibility of parts in a selected product configuration, the method comprising configuring the product by:

receiving a selection of a new part;

determining whether [[a]]said new part is compatible with one or more existing parts of the product configuration; and

if said new part is not compatible with one or more existing parts, determining a replacement part for one of an existing incompatible part and said new part, wherein a replacement part for said new part is determined if said existing incompatible part is a base part, and wherein a replacement part for said new part is determined if said existing incompatible part is an accessory part and an alternative accessory part for said existing incompatible part is not available, and wherein a replacement part for said existing incompatible part is determined if said existing incompatible part is an accessory part and an alternative accessory part is available for said existing incompatible part.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising determining whether said new part is compatible with the product configuration.

5. (original) The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising consulting a product table to determine whether said new part is compatible with the product configuration.

6. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising consulting a part incompatibility table to determine whether said new part is incompatible with one or more existing parts.

7. (canceled)

8. (original) A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to perform the steps recited in claim 1.

9. (currently amended) A computer system capable of configuring a product by determining the compatibility of parts in a product configuration, the computer system comprising a computer storage medium having a plurality of computer software components embodied thereon, the computer software components comprising:

a compatibility component which determines whether a selected part is compatible with existing parts of the configuration; and

a replacement component which determines a replacement parts for one of an existing incompatible parts and new said selected parts if a determination of incompatibility is made, wherein a replacement part for said selected part is determined if said existing incompatible part is a base part, and wherein a replacement part for said selected part is determined if said existing incompatible part is an accessory part and an

alternative accessory part for said existing incompatible part is not available, and wherein a replacement part for said existing incompatible part is determined if said existing incompatible part is an accessory part and an alternative accessory part is available for said existing incompatible part[.]]; and

a product configuration component which configures the product using the replacement part determined by the replacement component.

10. (currently amended) The computer system as recited in claim 9, wherein the computer software components further comprise~~comprising~~ a part determination component which determines whether a selected part is compatible with the product configuration.

11. (original) The computer system as recited in claim 9, wherein said compatibility component includes a part incompatibility table which indicates which parts are incompatible with one another.

12. (original) The computer system as recited in claim 10, wherein said part determination component includes a product table for determining whether said selected part is one that can be added to said existing parts.

13. (currently amended) A computer storage~~readable~~ medium containing a data structure for storing part incompatibility information, wherein the data structure comprises:

 a plurality of records in a table, each record including
 at least two product identification values, said values representing that said products represented by said identification values are incompatible, and

an indication as to product identification values which are suitable replacements for at least one of said product identification values entered in said record.

14. (currently amended) A computer storage readable medium containing computer-useable instructions embodied thereon, the computer-useable instructions for causing a computing device to perform a method for configuring a product by determining compatibility of parts in a selected product configuration, wherein the method comprises configuring a product by:

receiving a selection of a new part;

determining whether [[a]]said new part is compatible with one or more existing parts of the product configuration; and

if said new part is not compatible with one or more existing parts, determining a replacement part for one of an existing incompatible part and said new part, wherein a replacement part for said new part is determined if said existing incompatible part is a base part, and wherein a replacement part for said new part is determined if said existing incompatible part is an accessory part and an alternative accessory part for said existing incompatible part is not available, and wherein a replacement part for said existing incompatible part is determined if said existing incompatible part is an accessory part and an alternative accessory part is available for said existing incompatible part.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The computer storage readable medium as recited in claim 14, wherein the method further comprises determining whether said new part is compatible with the product configuration.

18. (currently amended) The computer storage readable medium as recited in claim 17, wherein the method further comprises consulting a product table to determine whether said new part is compatible with the product configuration.

19. (currently amended) The computer storage readable medium as recited in claim 14, wherein the method further comprises consulting a part incompatibility table to determine whether said new part is incompatible with one or more existing parts.

20. (canceled)